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Technical cooperation among developing countries

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HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Tenth session
New York, 5-9 May 1997

REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE BUENOS AIRES PLAN OF ACTION AND THE DECISIONS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SOUTH COMMISSION REPORT

Proposal by the Group of 77 and China

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming the validity and relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,

Welcoming the Ministerial Declaration of the 20th annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York in September 1996,

Welcoming also the Declaration and the Plan of Action adopted by the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, in January 1997,

Noting with appreciation the final document of the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New Delhi, India, in April 1997,

Taking note of the report prepared by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme,

1. Reaffirms the tremendous potential of technical cooperation among developing countries, which has now gained widespread acceptance as an innovative and effective instrument of technical cooperation, and urges developing countries that have not yet done so to elaborate national policies

and strategies for technical cooperation among developing countries so as to give full effect to this form of cooperation;

2. Welcomes the discernible efforts made by both developing countries and the United Nations development system to increase the application of technical cooperation among developing countries in development cooperation and its increasingly important role in bilateral and multilateral relations, including, inter alia, the expanded use of capacity and needs-matching exercises, which have culminated in a significant number of bilateral agreements, as well as activities related to training, transfer of technology, reconstruction, and the exchange of experience in various fields within the framework of interregional cooperation;

3. Notes with appreciation the actions already taken towards the expansion of the technical cooperation among developing countries Information Referral System database into a multi-dimensional information system, including data on individual experts, institutional capacities, centres of excellence, as well as replicable best practices in developing countries, recognizes the constraints of the effective use of this database; in this regard, calls upon the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to take steps so that least developed countries can effectively utilize the technical cooperation among developing countries Information Referral System;

4. Commends the developing countries that have allocated resources from national for technical cooperation among developing countries through bilateral and multilateral channels, and have made available their institutional facilities, expertise and centres of excellence for this purpose;

5. Encourages developing countries that have not yet done so to establish national focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries and where focal points have already been established to ensure that the focal points are adequately staffed and also appropriately equipped to enable them to function effectively and efficiently;

6. Reiterates that South-South cooperation should not be viewed as a substitute for, but rather as a complement to, North-South cooperation and, in that connection, emphasizes the need to effectively promote triangular approaches to facilitate South-South programmes and projects;

7. Encourages developed countries that already provide support for technical cooperation among developing countries in the context of triangular arrangements or through bilateral channels to continue to increase their financial support for technical cooperation among developing countries, including contributions to the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, and calls upon other developed countries to do likewise;

8. Reiterates the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries that international institutions and developed countries, in designing, formulating and executing projects for technical cooperation in developing countries, give priority to the use of local capabilities, consultancy and expertise and, where not available, to the technical resources from other developing countries;

9. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, to establish appropriate mechanisms that would facilitate the incorporation of technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes and projects and to intensify efforts towards the mainstreaming of this modality in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

10. Calls upon organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant organizations to make concerted efforts to assist the developing countries to utilize technical cooperation among developing countries for the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises, which constitute an essential component in the development strategies of most developing countries;

11. Calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue efforts to mobilize greater donor support in order to increase the allocation of resources for technical cooperation among developing countries including the expansion of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund's core capital and support to South Centre in accordance with decision 9/4 adopted by the High-level Committee at its ninth session;

12. Recommends that the intergovernmental processes of the United Nations system, as well as the High-level Committee foster closer linkages between technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries;

13. Recommends that the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, when convening the next meeting of the High-level Committee, take into account the need to make the session more interactive;

14. Welcomes the important focus that will be given to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in the operational activities for development segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 1997, and strongly recommends that the report of the High-level Committee on its tenth session constitute part of the background documents for the consideration of this item;

15. Notes with interest that 1998 will be the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and recommends the convening of a commemorative session of the High-level Committee at the ministerial level during the fifty-third session of the General Assembly to mark the occasion and to mobilize further support for the effective implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries;

16. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the High-level Committee at its eleventh session a comprehensive and analytical biennial report on the progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action as well as the present decision.

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HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
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Tenth session
New York, 5-9 May 1997

PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW DIRECTIONS STRATEGY FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Proposal by the Group of 77 and China

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 50/119 of 20 December 1995 and related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on economic cooperation among developing countries and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Recalling its decision 9/2 adopting the main recommendations contained in the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries,[1]

1. Recognizing that, while some progress has been made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, further progress can be achieved more effectively through the availability and provision of adequate resources;

2. Urges the United Nations development system to promote a closer operational integration between technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries;

3. Also urges the United Nations development system to address effectively and operationalize the implementation of other recommendations contained in the new directions strategy, in particular, new funding arrangements, expansion of the technical cooperation among developing countries,

[1] TCDC/9/3.

Information Referral System, identification of pivotal countries for technical cooperation among developing countries, promotion of triangular cooperation arrangements and dissemination of best practices in technical cooperation among developing countries;

4. Commends the efforts being made to promote improved, expanded and diversified linkages with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society;

5. Welcomes, in the context of follow-up to the Programme of Action on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and within the framework of the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme, the completion of a comprehensive directory of experts on small island developing States and the identification of critical areas in the programme of action for implementation, through the application of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality;

6. Welcomes also the establishment of the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, notes with appreciation the contribution of some developed countries to the Trust Fund, and urges the international donor community to contribute generously;

7. Endorses the cooperation framework for technical cooperation among developing countries (1997-1999) and its focus on poverty eradication, environment, production and employment and trade, investment and macroeconomic management;

8. Welcomes the decision of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme to allocate 0.05 per cent of its overall programme resources, estimated at $15 million, to technical cooperation among developing countries during the period 1997-1999;

9. Calls upon developing and developed countries, as well as the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, to give their full support to the effective implementation of the technical cooperation among developing countries framework, including support for innovative national, regional and interregional programmes and projects and the expanded utilization of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

10. Reiterates its request to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to instruct Resident Representatives to increase the application of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in technical cooperation activities in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41;

11. Calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to ensure that separate identity of the Special Unit for technical cooperation among developing countries within the United Nations Development Programme is maintained in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/119;

12. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to include in his biennial report to the High-level Committee at its eleventh session information on the progress made in the implementation of the present decision.

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OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
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Tenth session
New York, 5-9 May 1997

OVERALL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROMOTION AND APPLICATION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Proposal by the Group of 77 and China

The High-level Committee,

Recalling its decision 9/3 of 2 June 1995,

Taking note of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures concerning technical cooperation among developing countries approved by the Administrative Committee on Coordination,

Taking note also of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme,

1. Takes note of the views and comments expressed at the tenth session of the High-level Committee on making more effective the application of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures concerning technical cooperation among developing countries in order to ensure greater use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in the United Nations system;

2. Commends the United Nations agencies that have taken measures to apply the guidelines approved by the Administrative Committee on Coordination and urges the organizations and agencies that have not yet done so to take similar measures in order to ensure uniformity and consistency in the application of the guidelines;

3. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to carry out consultations on the guidelines with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, and to submit recommendations on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council at its 1997 substantive session, for further consideration and approval;

4. Notes with appreciation the increased financial resources for technical cooperation among developing countries allocated by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme for the programming period 1997-1999 and, in the light of the expanding utilization of this modality, requests the Executive Board to review periodically the volume of resources allocated for the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries;

5. Stresses the need to mobilize further additional financial resources with a view to enabling the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to implement effectively and operationalize the new directions strategy on technical cooperation among developing countries;

6. Emphasizes the need to strengthen adequately the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to enable it to execute its responsibilities effectively;

7. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in relation to the mandated functions and increasing responsibilities of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, to ensure that the Special Unit is adequately staffed in accordance with the decisions of the High-level Committee at its ninth session;

8. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the High-level Committee at its eleventh session on the implementation of the present decision.